

KCDHH: Who We Are

Our Mission

The Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing's mission is to provide effective and efficient leadership, education, advocacy and programs to eliminate barriers and to meet the social, economic, cultural and intellectual needs of deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.

What We Do for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Kentuckians - Our Mandates

The Commission shall:

- Advise the Governor and the General Assembly concerning policy and programs to enhance the quality and coordination of services for deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- Cooperate with and assist local, state, and federal governments and public and private agencies in the development of programs for deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- Review legislative programs related to services and conduct studies of conditions affecting the health and welfare of deaf and hard of hearing persons.
- Oversee the provision of interpreter services to deaf and hard of hearing persons and may provide such services if needed.
- Oversee the implementation and operation of a Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) to ensure equal access to telecommunications services by providing specialized telecommunications equipment (STE) to citizens of the Commonwealth who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

KCDHH: What We Do

Information & Advocacy:

- Maintains resources, provides information, education, outreach through web, social media, publications, presentations, trainings, workshops and makes referrals to assist consumers.
 - Provides assistance/advocacy or makes appropriate referrals to agencies that can offer the best assistance for you and your needs.
 - Public access to communication through:
 - Video Phone
 - Computer Website
 - Captioned Telephone
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Interpreters:

- Receives and coordinates interpreter requests and captioning services for **state agencies only**
 - Provides information to consumers on how to find an interpreter and self-advocate
 - Provides information to private and non-state entities on how to find an interpreter, available referral agencies, hiring interpreters directly, billing, etc.
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Equipment:

Provides specialized telecommunications equipment (STE) to citizens of the Commonwealth who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired or deaf blind at no cost to the consumer. Some of these phones include:



Amplified Phones



Landline Phones



Speech Impaired
Phones



Captioned Phones



Wireless Phones

There is also public access to test telephone equipment at the KCDHH office in Frankfort and several locations across the state. For other locations, visit kcdhh.ky.gov/oea/trydevice.html.

DeaFestival:

- A one-day FREE event for ALL that celebrate the language, art, diversity and talents of the deaf and hard of hearing community.
- DeaFestival gives attendees an opportunity to fully experience and participate in a comprehensive program of cultural enrichment, activities, and artistic performances.
- Everyone who attends has the opportunity to immerse themselves in a world of visual wonders and gain a better awareness about the deaf and hard of hearing community.

